

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 21-23 are allowed. The Applicants' attorney has amended claims 1-3, 6-9, 13-15, 18-20, 24-25, and 28-30, and has added new claims 31-36. As discussed below, all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicants' attorney has filed two information disclosure statements, and, therefore, requests that the examiner consider the references cited therein and send back initialed copies of the forms PTO-1492 that were included with the information disclosure statements. Copies of the filed PTO-1492 are enclosed for the examiner's convenience.

In the Drawings

Please replace Figure 1 with the enclosed Figure 1, which includes the legend "prior art".

Rejection of Claim 20 Under 35 U.S.C § 112 Second Paragraph

The Applicant's attorney believes that after reading the below discussion, the examiner will understand that claim 20 is not indefinite and will thus withdraw this rejection.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 20, 24, 26-28, and 30 Under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) As Being Anticipated By U.S. Patent 6,480,175 to Schneider

As discussed below, the Applicants' attorney disagrees with this rejection.

Claim 1

Claim 1 as amended recites an image generator operable to sweep a first optical beam across a first optical projector and to sweep a second optical beam across a second optical projector.

Referring, e.g., to FIG. 13 and the corresponding text of the patent application, in one embodiment a color-image projection system 140 includes three projectors 144r, 144g, and 144b, which cooperate to project a color image onto a display screen 142. The system 140 includes a converter 152, which generates red, green, and blue optical scanning signals 154r, 154g, and 154b that respectively represent the red, green, and blue

portions of the color image. The system 140 also includes a scanning assembly 150, which converts the signals 154r, 154g, and 154b into respective image beams 42r, 42g, and 42b and which generates corresponding erase beams 52r, 52g, and 52b — the image and erase beams are electromagnetic beams that may be optical beams (*i.e.*, have wavelengths within the visible spectrum). The scanning assembly 150 generates the red, green, and blue portions of the image on the projection screens 34r, 34g, and 34b by sweeping the image beams 42r, 42g, and 42b and the erase beams 52r, 52g, and 52b across the “backs” of the respective projection screens. The light sources 160r, 160g, and 160b illuminate the “fronts” of the screens 34r, 34g, and 34b with red, green, and blue light, respectively, such that the screens 34 respectively project the red, green, and blue portions of the image into the optical assemblies 162r, 162g, and 162b, which optically align the red, green, and blue portions to form a color image on the display screen 142. That is, the scanning assembly 150 generates the red, green, and blue image portions on the screens 34, which project these generated image portions to form a color image on the display screen 142.

In contrast, Schneider does not disclose sweeping an optical beam across a projector. Referring, *e.g.*, to Schneider’s FIG. 1 and column 1, Schneider’s projectors 101-106 project respective image tiles 107-112 onto a screen 100 — the combination of the image tiles form a single image on the screen. In column 1, lines 35-37, Schneider discloses that the projectors 101-106 may be LCD or CRT projectors. In a typical LCD projector, a backlight illuminates the back or the front of the LCD to generate the image that the LCD projects onto the screen 100; but, unlike the claimed optical projectors, this backlight is not swept across the LCD. In a typical CRT projector, coils sweep an electron beam across a phosphor screen to generate the image that the phosphor screen projects onto the screen 100; but, unlike the claimed beams, an electron beam is not an optical beam.

Consequently, claim 1 is patentable because Schneider does not disclose at least one limitation thereof, namely sweeping an optical beam across a projector.

Claim 20

Claim 20 as amended recites generating a first portion of an image on a first section of a projection screen by sweeping a first electromagnetic image beam across the first

section, and generating a second portion of the image on a second section of the projection screen by sweeping a second electromagnetic image beam across the second section.

Claim 20 is patentable because Schneider does not disclose at least one limitation thereof, namely sweeping an electromagnetic image beam across a projection screen. As discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1, Schneider at most discloses a CRT projector in which coils sweep an electron beam to generate an image on a phosphor screen. But an electron beam is not an electromagnetic beam.

Rejection of Claims 7-8, 10-12, and 16-19 Under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) As Being Unpatentable Over Schneider

As discussed below, the Applicants' attorney disagrees with this rejection.

Claim 7

Claim 7 as amended recites an image generator operable to respectively generate first and second portions of an image on first and second projection screens by sweeping first and second electromagnetic image beams onto the first and second projection screens.

Claim 7 is patentable because Schneider does not disclose or suggest at least one limitation thereof, namely sweeping an electromagnetic image beam onto a projection screen to generate an image. As discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1, Schneider at most discloses a CRT projector in which coils sweep an electron beam to generate an image on a phosphor screen. But an electron beam is not an electromagnetic beam.

Examiner's Statement Of Reasons For The Indication Of Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants' attorney submits that the claims may be allowable for different reasons than those stated by the examiner.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, in addition to the allowed claims 21-23, claims 4-5, 10-12, 16-17, 26-27 as previously pending, claims 1-3, 6-9, 13-15, 18-20, 24-25, and 28-30 as amended, and new claims 31-36 are in condition for full allowance, which is respectfully requested.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, payment for those fees has been enclosed in the form of a check. Should further payment be required to cover such fees you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

DATED this 11th day of December, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bryan A. Santarelli
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,560
155 – 108th Ave. NE, Suite 350
Bellevue, WA 98004-5973
(425) 455-5575